AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for remotely requesting information [[or]] and/or services from [[a]] at least one remote service server through a personal computing system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, [[in]] at the personal computing system, a telephone call from a user that is registered with the personal computing system, wherein the user is and is remotely located from the personal computing system, wherein the personal computing system is personal to the user and the user does not pay for services provided by the personal computing system, wherein the personal computing system does not exercise administrative control over a plurality of clients, and wherein the personal computing system functions as a client with respect to the remote service server;

receiving a user spoken utterance over the telephone call;

speech recognizing the user spoken utterance to determine a request for information [[or]] and/or a service;

formatting an electronic message according to the request;

sending the electronic message over a communication network from the personal computing system to the at least one remote service server;

receiving content [[in]] at the personal computing system from the at least one remote service server;

converting the content to speech audio [[in]] at the personal computing system; and

playing the audio to the user over the telephone call.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said formatting step comprising comprises building an electronic message to be sent over the Internet.

3.   (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the request [[is]] includes a request to send an electronic mail, said method further comprising [[the]] steps of:

receiving at least one additional user spoken utterance; and

converting the at least one additional user spoken utterance to text, wherein said formatting step builds an electronic mail to be sent in said sending step and includes the speech recognized text in the electronic mail.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the request [[is]] includes a request to send an instant message, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one additional user spoken utterance; and

converting the at least one additional user spoken utterance to text, wherein said formatting step builds an instant message to be sent in said sending step and includes the speech recognized text in the instant message.

6. – 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the personal computing system includes a home computer in the user's home.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the personal computing system is owned by the user.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the personal computing system includes a portable computer.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the user pays no fee to an owner of the personal computing system for access to the personal computing system.

25. (New) At least one computer readable medium encoded with instructions that, when executed by at least one computer, perform a method for remotely requesting information and/or services from at least one remote service server through a personal computing system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the personal computing system, a telephone call from a user that is registered with the personal computing system and remotely located from the personal computing system;

receiving a user spoken utterance over the telephone call;

speech recognizing the user spoken utterance to determine a request for information and/or a service;

formatting an electronic message according to the request;

sending the electronic message over a communication network from the personal computing system to the at least one remote service server;

receiving content at the personal computing system from the at least one remote service server;

converting the content to speech audio at the personal computing system; and playing the audio to the user over the telephone call.

26. (New) The least one computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the personal computing system includes a home computer in the user's home.

27. (New) The least one computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the personal computing system is owned by the user.

28. (New) The least one computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the personal computing system includes a portable computer.

29. (New) The least one computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the user pays no fee to an owner of the personal computing system for access to the personal computing system.

30. (New) A personal computing system for requesting information and/or services from at least one remote service server on behalf of a user remotely located from the personal computing system, the personal computing system comprising:

a telephone connection to receive a telephone call from the user remotely located from the personal computing system, the telephone connection capable of receiving a user spoken utterance over the telephone call;

a speech recognizer to recognize the user spoken utterance to determine a request for information and/or a service;

at least one interface to format an electronic message according to the request;

a network connection connected to a communication network to send the electronic message from the personal computing system over the communication network to the at least one remote service server and to receive content from the at least one remote service server at the personal computing system; and

a text-to-speech synthesizer to convert the content to speech audio and play the speech audio to the user over the telephone call.

31. (New) The personal computing system of claim 30, wherein the personal computing system includes a home computer.

32. (New) The personal computing system of claim 30, wherein the personal computing system includes a portable computer.